IOB SAFETY CONSULTANT

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JAN 2 3 1987

LIBRARY

IDS CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY	
ave there been any job-related cases involving worker fear of exposure to AIDS victims?	
it a good idea for our company to develop a personnel policy for dealing with employees stricken with AIDS?	
BATEMENT	
hat can happen to an employer who ignores the inspector's determination that a serious hazard should be corrected immediately?	

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n't it foolish for companies and the government to go through the time and
expense of a federal court hearing over relatively minor safety violations and
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we're inspected while our appeal of an Administrative Judge's decision is
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an OSHA hit us with a heavy penalty to "set an example" for other employers in

ITATION, VIOLATIONS & PENALTIES

the area? We were inspected several times by OSHA over the past five years, and now they cite us for a machine violation even though it was always that way. Is that fair? 3-3002	
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not for filling a safety complaint, but because of his consistently poor work	

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If OSHA rejects a worker's claim that he was fired for filing a safety complaint can
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What are some of the most common safety violations found at construction sites?	

CRANES—HEAVY EQUIPMENT
What can happen if the operator's daily Crane Inspection Report is just filed away unread?
We rented a crane and operator to lift some heavy equipment for us. As a result of the operator's carelessness, one of our employees was injured. Can we be held responsible?
OSHA says that, when the rotating superstructure of a crane is barricaded, that means all employees must keep outside of the barricaded area. Does that include the crane's oiler?
We were cited for permitting a crane to carry a load over employees and we claim the angle made it impossible for the inspector to see its exact location. Who's right?
During the entire trip in reverse must the backup alarm on our loader be sounded?
We have an excavator with a rotating superstructure. The inspector says we must barricade accessible areas within the swing radius of its rear. True? 9-3104
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The regulations [1910.179(n)(3)(xi)] state that a warning signal should be sounded when a crane load "approaches near personnel." How close is that?
Why must our crane operators wear hard hats when the only overhead dangers are from falling loads weighing at least 500 pounds?

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

One of the supervisors got into an argument with the OSHA inspector, lost his
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Has anyone ever been prosecuted for lying to OSHA? 4-3019
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DEFECTIVE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Are we entitled to rely on our supplier to furnish us with the proper equipment?
4-3024
Are we responsible for the condition of the tools in an employee's home workshop,
if he uses the shop for company work?6-3052

DISCIPLINE

	DISCIPLINE
,	We leave it up to our foremen whether or not to report employees for safety infractions, and what, if any, discipline should be imposed. Good idea? .1-2971
	If a supervisor accuses an employee of reporting for work in an
	intoxicated condition, must we honor the worker's request for a blood test? 6-3049
	Claiming that we don't enforce certain safety rules, the inspector pointed out that we've never disciplined anybody for violating them. What kind of justification is
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	When our employees were installing angle irons in an elevator shart, we told there.
ORUG ABUSE Are there any figures on the actual cost to industry of employee drug abuse?	to lie flat on the floor to minimize the risk of failing down and 5-304/4
and the best and approach in countering employee grug abuse, an outlight ball	and the edge of a building if it would take longer to install the qualifalls in
on drugs, or forbidding drug use that results in physical of motion 4-3022	Must we install quardrails on our scaffold, even though employees aren't workings
A . theions doing envilling to help curb worker drug abuse	on it but morely using it as a means of gaining access to the root: or out
	Employees have to walk on top of the cargo on flat-bed trucks to secure it, so
How serious is the effect of drug aduse of worker stately active to 5-3038 What steps can be taken to counter employee drug abuse?	OSHA says the cargo is a platform and we must provide guardrails. Isn't that ridiculous?
ELECTRICAL	
One of our rearms, which contains electric-nowered tools and equipment, is hosed	HAZARD COMMUNICATIONS
down daily for sanitary purposes. Are there any special precautions we must	What kind of violations have been logged so far under the hazard communication standard?
if the general contractor supplies electric power at the worksite for all the subs,	How good a job are the Material Safety Data Sheets doing in hazard
who is responsible for providing ground fault circuit interrupters or an assured grounding program?	communication?10-310(0
grounding program?	We received a hazardous chemical from the manufacturer but no Material Safety
	Data Sheet for it. Can we nevertheless use the chemical, since we need it right away?
EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY	Are the dealers from whom we purchase scrap metal required to furnish us with
If we "loan" some of our employees to another contractor, who is responsible for them as far as OSHA is concerned?	Material Safety Data Sheets if the metal contains hazardous chemicals's
An employee loaned to us by another company claims he's been trained and	12-3130
qualified to operate a forklift. Should we check him out to make sure? 7-3064 Are we responsible for our employees safety on a jobsite during their lunch	
break?	HEALTH HAZARDS
Without our knowledge or consent, an employee brought a fan to work the day a safety inspector showed up and we were cited for unguarded fan blades! Is that	Do barbers and beauticians face special health problems because of the products they use in their work?
fair?	We were cited for failing to dispose of insulation containing asbestos in sealed,
our safety rules create a presumption that our safety practices are inadequate?	impermeable containers, even though the inspector didn't test for airborne asbestos. Isn't that necessary?
	Does the regulation covering asbestos apply to every situation involving employed exposure?
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES	We've noticed that a number of our maintenance workers who do a lot of painting
We run a small business operation and our only employees are family members.	frequently experience headaches and dizziness. Is this cause for alarm'r
Are we exempt from OSHA regulations?	A number of our employees have developed allowed reactions to the observices
a safety violator. Do they actually collect all that money?	A number of our employees have developed allergic reactions to the chemicals we use in our plastics plant. Is this commonplace, or unusual? 5-3035
How effective has OSHA been in collecting penalties levied for safety violations?	Is there any clear-cut evidence identifying specific workplace agents as reproductive hazards?
	How are the unions reacting to company bans on workplace smoking?8-3081
EXCAVATIONS, TRENCHES	Must we require the employees at our health care facility to wear protective gloves
We claim there are no special safety requirements covering trenches dug in hard or compact soil. True?	when they clean and change patients?
We have a dirt incline at the end of the trench that employees use as means of	chemicals?9-3092
exit. Good enough?2-2995 Contrary to company rules, one of our workers jumped into a freshly dug,	Can we be cited for a violation of the mineral dusts air contaminants regulation for
unshored trench to relieve himself and was spotted by an inspector who then	excessive grain dust at our grain elevators?
cited us. Is that fair?	INSPECTIONS
which employees are standing?11-3131	An employee injured in an accident has called OSUA for the page and
How could the inspector prove our trench was more than five feet deep if he didn't use any measuring device?	An employee injured in an accident has asked OSHA for the names and addresses of all the witnesses its investigators interviewed. Is he entitled to
	UNDS
FIRST AID—MEDICAL	exposure to the hazard, right?
As maintenance contractors, our employees sometimes do repair work on steel mill coke ovens. Must we provide a medical surveillance program for them?	vve ve been inspected numerous times by our insurance company and the
4-2020	government, and always received a clean bill of health. Can we rely on them? 6-3053
Since there's a paramedic squad located near our plant, are we excused from having first-aid trained personnel on premises?9-3099	in testing our weigers exposure to airborne contaminants, is it proper for the
Job applicants at our company are required to take a physical examination, which	inspector to place sampling filters on the outside of their welding hoods? After our first inspector
includes a number of X-rays. How valuable are these X-rays?10-3117	Alter our first inspection, we followed the inepoctor's advise an assessing
CHARDING	wrong! How can you win?
GUARDING—MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT We were cited for using an unquested band hald as a second sec	The inspector is at a construction site investigating an assident in the
We were cited for using an unguarded hand-held powered chop saw at our construction site, even though we pointed out the tool wasn't designed to	notice?
accommodate a guard. Who's right?	
clear a jam-up, even though the machine has an automatic never extra	Are we justified in claiming that the inspector's mading of
whenever it jams?	Are we justified in claiming that the inspector's readings for airborne contaminants were not accurate since the high workplace temperature affected the testing
We've been using an unguarded power saw for years and no one's been injured! Doesn't that prove guards are unnecessary?	11 212
9-3105	waiting for a company representative and before starting to
CHADDDAILE	photo against us?
GUARDRAILS We were cited for permitting our employees to work pear an open sided these	During his walkaround, the inspector quizzed our augustions
We were cited for permitting our employees to work near an open-sided floor lacking guardrails even though we neither created the hazard nor install	10 0400
guardrails. Who's right?3-3011	We were unaware that we were violating OSHA regulations since state inspectors

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t we permit the union's industrial hygienist access to our plant to conduct oise level tests?	We have a work rule requiring our longshoremen to wear hard hats whenever there are overhead hazards. Good enough?
many companies instituted formal policies restricting smoking in the orkplace?	How specific must we be in conveying and enforcing safety rules regarding workplace hazards?
n medical leave of absence?	Should our beefed-up safety training for new employees be extended to include our old-timers?
hould be placed on restricted duty because of his obesity?2-2999	SCAFFOLDS
uld an employee's off-duty driving record have any bearing on his right to rive a company truck?	The inspector told us that we need overhead protection for our employees working from a scaffold, and that this protection should be a canopy built onto their scaffold. True?
CORDS, RECORDKEEPING & POSTING HA charged us with failing to maintain a Log and Summary of Employee njuries and Ilinesses (Form 200) but we have the information in our workers' compensation records. Good enough?	Can we permit employees to work on a scaffold from which the guardrails were temporarily removed in order to erect the next scaffold tier?
the ventilation system we installed doesn't seem to do the job, can we rely on respirators to reduce employee exposure to airborne contaminants? 2-2992 our fault if an employee selects the wrong respirator and is overcome while working in a contaminated atmosphere? 2-2993 lead of purging the shaft of air contaminants, can we permit our workers to writer it while wearing respirators? 12-3142	SUPERVISORS Can we be cited because there was no supervisor in the work area immediately preceding an accident caused by an employee's violation of safety rules? 1-2981 I know a foreman is usually considered part of management but what about a "leadman" or "crew leader?" 4-3018
BOTS	Are we responsible for the actions of our supervisors, even when they're performing general laborer work?
o is responsible for installing protective devices on industrial robots: the nanufacturer or the purchaser?	How do workers generally rate their supervisors on awareness of and concern for safety?
ETY EQUIPMENT	
en we tried to get our employees to wear safety belts, they pointed out that porkers from other companies on the jobsite don't wear them, so why should ney. How can we handle this?	An employee who claims he was discriminated against under the Job Safety Act has 30 days to file a complaint with OSHA. Is this period extended if he also files a union grievance?
of our employees swears by his "lucky" safety belt, saying it saved his life nce and he refuses to give it up. Should we let him continue using it?3-3009	conditions. Is this a valid objection?9-3097
of our storerooms contains chemicals which could, upon contact, cause eye skin irritation. Must we install quick drenching facilities in that area?5-3036	UNSAFE WORK CONDITIONS
workers directing traffic on a paving job in a snopping center weren't wearing iffectorized vests. We say it's only necessary on or near a public highway. ho's right?	Our purchasing department sometimes vetoes our request for top quality equipment, saying the price is too high, even though the cheaper equipment frequently breaks down. Is this a common problem?2-2989
t we require our employees to wear protective sleeves since the work they erform subjects them to the possibility of minor burns on their forearms?	Is an atmosphere heavy with grain dust presumed to be explosive?3-3006 We were cited for leaving a loaded explosive-powered magazine-fed stud gun lying around, even though we claimed it was unloaded, since the firing
te inspector correct in saying that deluge showers and eye flushes are the nly proper methods for washing off harmful liquids from the clothing, skin and yes?	chamber was empty. Who's right?
te that asbestos gloves are still being used to protect workers' hands from eat, flames, and sparks. Is that safe?	them?
ETY RULES, INSTRUCTIONS & PROGRAMS	in a way contrary to the safety regulations. Which should we follow?8-3079
our employees receive on-the-job training with emphasis on safety, and our upervisors attend safety seminars. Good enough?	Can employees call a work stoppage when ordered to perform an unusually unsafe task?
witing inspection. What can we say to them to change their attitude? 2-2990	What risks do we take in failing to heed the advice of the safety inspector? 9-3102 Our warehouse workers seem to have a higher injury rate than the rest of our
ald we be justified in disciplining an immigrant worker who caused an accident ecause he failed to understand instructions?	employees. Isn't this unusual?

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- Even though we've furnished all our VDT operators with the latest "ergonomically correct" equipment, many of them still complain. What's the problem now?......5-3040

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- Can corporate officers be sued personally for firing an employee who filed safety complaints against the company?.....1-2974

- Would we be justified in refusing to recall a worker who filed for workers' compensation benefits, claiming "complete loss of hearing"?......
- When one of our employees sustained a job-related back injury, we learned the first time that she had undergone two previous back operations. Is she patitled to workers' companyation?
- entitled to workers' compensation?......94
 Can workers sue their employer for intentionally withholding information about harmful effects of materials to which they were exposed?...........10-
- Can an employee continue collecting workers' compensation benefits for a journal related injury if she refuses to undergo further medical diagnostic test
- One of our employees, who was accidentally exposed to harmful chemicals, h filed a claim for compensation benefits. Doesn't he have to show some evidence of injury or illness?



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